



LIESEMER FLAYS GOVERNMENT

Interest Of People Not Safeguarded

Political and other reactionaries who cry "Communist" at everyone who is trying to effect even the mildest kind of reform are more responsible than anyone else for the spread of Communism, said A. J. E. Liesemer (C.C.F., Calgary), in speaking in the legislature on Wednesday.

"When you label every reform 'Communist' people begin to believe that what they want is Communism, and Communism loses its power to terrify," the Calgary member said.

Using the farm demand for rural electrification to illustrate his point, Mr. Liesemer said all of the farm organizations in this province were asking for rural electrification by public ownership. This was because the farm groups recognized that nowhere in the world had electricity been taken to the farms in any widespread way except under public ownership. But, said Mr. Liesemer, the answer of the government to such demands was to brand them as "Socialism" or "Communism!"

Manning's Insults

In noting the insulting manner in which Premier Manning had referred to the Liberal leader, as well as in his attack on Elmer E. Roper, Mr. Liesemer said the premier had used the old Hitler technique of accusing others of using the same tactics he himself employed. "But," the Calgary M.L.A. reminded the legislature, the premier has improved upon Hitler. For Hitler did not have the advantage of years in the Christian pulpit with which to build around him so disarming an (Continued on Page 2)

\$100 A WEEK IS RADIO OBJECTIVE

\$100 a week is the amount needed by the radio committee to finance the five-minute programs now carried on six Alberta radio stations. The \$92 sent in this week is therefore a bit short of the objective, but not enough to be a matter of serious concern. The generous manner in which contributors have supported the radio programs is very gratifying to the committee, which bespeaks your assistance in meeting the objective of \$100 a week.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the following contributions:

S. V. Sandberg, \$3.03; Bert Flathears, \$1.00; Modeste Creek Club, \$16.00; F. A. Bellinghurst, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Nic Christ, \$1.00; Percy H. Moore, \$1.00; K. M. Thornton, \$5.00; Mrs. Ed. Sather, \$2.00; Earl Grover, \$1.00; C. S. Duxton, \$1.00; C. A. Ham, \$3.00; Arthur Ham, \$5.00; J. H. Richardson, \$11.00; J. E. Anderson, \$10.00; H. S. Moore, \$3.00; P. T. Rose, \$1.00; E. Peterson, \$2.00; J. Sinclair, \$1.00; T. A. Reynard, \$1.00; Wm. Orr, \$3.00; A. I. Holm, \$2.00; C. A. Beyen, \$1.00; Oliver Reid, \$1.00; D. S. Mign, \$3.00; Miss M. Gimby, \$5.00; N. Allen, \$10.00—previously acknowledged incorrectly as Anne Peters.

U.S. Marines Make Beachhead



Atlantic fleet maneuvers got under way in the Caribbean area as these U.S. Marines hit the beach at Vieques Island. More than 16,000 sailors, soldiers and marines are engaged in the war games.

C.C.F. Candidate



JOHN W. McLACHLAN, C.C.F. candidate for Bow Valley, Empress, who farms in the Idlesleigh district, is secretary of the Rainy Hills U.F.A. local and is also an official of the Idlesleigh Co-operative Shipping Association. Mr. McLachlan is on the Advisory Committee of the Special Areas Board and has served four years in that capacity. Coming west from an Ontario farm in 1910 Mr. McLachlan took employment in a coal mine and, believing in organization, soon became a member of the United Mine Workers of America, District 18. After working in the mines for a year, he took up a homestead in the Bingville district, joined the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Co-operative Elevator Company, and has been prominently associated with the U.F.A. and co-operative associations ever since.

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR B.C. CANDIDATES

VANCOUVER—While regretting that the C.C.F. candidates were not elected in Cariboo and Sander, Harold Winch, C.C.F. leader in the B.C. legislature, said: "We can be pleased with the increased support given them by the electorate. The government had to go all-out to hold these seats, resorting to the most glittering promises I've heard in 15 years of campaigning. It is now their responsibility to keep them, and that will be a big job."

The C.C.F. polled 1,368 votes in the Cariboo seat to 1,746 for the Coalition. In Saanich, the vote was 4,156 for the C.C.F. and 5,021 for the Coalition.

C.F.A. Brief

Urges Government Adopt Stable Market Measures

U. of A. Branch

CALGARY REQUEST REFUSED BY S.C.

A. J. E. Liesemer's proposal for an expansion of the present branch of the University of Alberta at Calgary was turned down by the Alberta legislature on Tuesday of last week by a vote of 39 to 10. With the exception of Mrs. Rose Wilkinson, Social Credit members voted solidly against the motion, asking the government to give consideration to the question. All of the opposition, with the exception of the Liberal leader, Harper Prowse, lined up in support of the Liesemer motion.

Mr. Liesemer emphasized that he was not asking for a new university but merely an expansion of the present branch of the university in the southern city.

The Calgary member pointed out that he was not requesting the addition of all faculties of the University of Alberta, but merely the faculty of education, the faculty of arts and sciences, and (Continued on Page 8)

LABOR APPEAL FOR AID FOR CHILDREN

Organized labor in Canada is taking a significant part in the Canadian Appeal for Children, with a minimum objective of \$10,000,000 to provide essential needs for the children of devastated countries.

Top officers of the three central labor bodies have given full endorsement to the drive and have urged the 1,000,000 workers they represent to pledge one day's pay. Leaders of individual unions are swinging solidly behind the appeal and indications are that labor's participation will be on an unprecedented scale.

Plans are well underway to bring clearly before Canadian workers the full significance of the campaign to relieve the suffering of children of war devastated countries who, on the verge of starvation, are subsisting on scraps collected from garbage dumps, who are ragged and homeless.

Amendment On Oil Is Voted Down

C.C.F. members of the Alberta legislature on Tuesday moved an amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, which would have added the words: "but this assembly regrets that in its administration of the natural resources of the province, the government has failed to protect the best interests of the people."

Only four members of the House, the premier and second, A. J. E. Liesemer and E. E. Roper, W. J. Williams, Veterans, and J. Harper Prowse, Army and leader of the Liberal party, supported the amendment. The three Independent members and Ward, Navy, joined with a solid phalanx of government members to defeat the C.C.F. move.

Speaking in support of the amendment, Elmer E. Roper, C.C.F. leader, reviewed the developments in the oil situation in the province and said the govern-

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M.P. DENOUNCES GRAIN EXCHANGE

OTTAWA (CPA)—"It is high time we closed the Winnipeg Grain Exchange and that gambling house forever," E. G. McCullough (C.C.F., Assiniboia) said in the House of Commons on February 9.

"If there is anything that is a black spot on Canadian democracy it is the grain exchange and that den of robbers who have been speculating on the farmers' grain and produce for so many years."

"We have never asked for the decontrol of our coarse grains and wheat in the West. For the last twenty-five years every bona fide farm organization in the West has asked for a stability, price and long-term agreements."

Saskatchewan's Old Age Pension Raised To \$35

REGINA (CPA)—An announcement that old age pensions in Saskatchewan are to be raised to \$35 a month, effective April 1, was the highlight of the budget brought down in the Saskatchewan legislature by Provincial Treasurer C. M. Fines.

Mr. Fines also announced that for the first time in the history of the province, the government would be able to budget for revenue from crown corporation profits. For 1948-49 the amount would be \$600,000.

The compulsory automobile insurance scheme is to be extended to provide \$5,000 public liability and \$1,000 property damage, giving Saskatchewan motorists three-point insurance at the lowest rates in Canada. The education tax is to stay, but there will be no new taxes and no increase in present taxation rates. Less than a third of

revenue will be from taxation, Fines stated.

The government anticipates record expenditures of \$52,221,124, and revenues sufficient to provide a small surplus. In addition, the government might receive \$500,000 more than expected in the budget from the federal taxation subsidy.

Revenues Up Too
Extra expenditure of over \$7,700,000 called for in supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year, which ends March 31, would not mean a deficit, since revenues had increased in proportion.

The 1948-49 budget, said Fines, is an expression of a policy aimed at stabilizing the province's economy and providing programs necessary to the welfare of its people. To those who say it is too large, he added, "I would say would you have us turn back the pages of history?"

LIESEMER FLAYS GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 1) — atmosphere of piety. All the premier succeeded in doing in his attack, said Mr. Liesemer, was to wound the dignity of the house by his language and bring discredit on those who belong to his party.

True to Form

The C.C.F. member declared that the speech from the throne ran true to form in that it used a lot of words to indicate absolutely nothing of the government's intentions. "And," he added, "the premier and the government likewise ran true to form in talking Social Credit and acting monopoly enterprise. The people are getting tired of waiting for Social Credit and are getting angry at the unfulfilling service which their cabinet is giving to the great monopolies."

Just Old Line Party

He said that the premier had proved himself a most skillful jockey. "For what other jockey in the world has been so skillful that he could slip from the back of the Social Credit horse without its knowing that it had no rider and seat himself firmly in the saddle of the Tory horse without the Tory jockey knowing that he had no horse under him at all. Actually, of course, Social Credit as a movement, not as a political party, is dead. Social Credit died with the passing of Mr. Aberhart. The dismissal of Mr. Ansley and Mr. Byrne simply means that the premier has finally given it a decent burial. Everybody knows that the Social Credit party is now just an old line party, and the cabinet old line party politicians. The cabinet has to stop kidding the people or go the way of all flesh," he said.

Refunding Deal

Listing some of the things which pointed to the fact that the government was no longer Social Credit, Mr. Liesemer pointed to the refunding deal in the 1946 session under which arrangement Mr. Manning paid all the interest money which Mr. Aberhart had refused to pay. The deal, he said, had been planned and agreed to long before the election. It would never have taken place, he contended, if Mr. Aberhart had lived. "However," he added, "the cabinet got away with it and the back-benchers did not kick up too much of a howl for this departure from Social Credit because times were prosperous and the people were not particularly aware of what had happened."

Hurt Co-operatives

Then, said Mr. Liesemer, there was the action of the cabinet in sponsoring the taxation of the co-operatives, which was exactly what the Winnipeg Grain Exchange wanted. The cabinet told the back-benchers that co-operation was Socialism, and, said Mr. Liesemer, it is Socialism. But, Mr. Liesemer declared, the farmers believe in this form of Socialism and do not take kindly to this alliance between the Social Credit cabinet and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange to blackjack the farmers' co-operative movement in Alberta.

"The hostility to labor that was evidenced by the attorney-general

in the 1946 session and the stab in the back administered to the farmers at the time they were fighting desperately for parity prices by the premier of this province were just more evidence that the ways of Manning were different from the ways of Aberhart," said Mr. Liesemer.

The case of the farm strike was particularly blatant, he declared. It was a fight between the farmers and the federal government, and one would have expected in all would have rushed to the aid of his own farmers. The only conceivable reason that the premier jumped in on the other side was to prove to the Big Shots that he was on their side and against the very people who had elected him. The action of the premier did more than anything else to convince the farmers that Social Credit died with the passing of Mr. Aberhart. Mr. Liesemer warned that the farmers are not going to forget this veritable stab in the back by a man whom they had regarded as their champion against the Big Shots.

Continuing, Mr. Liesemer said in part:

Forced to Act

"The C.C.F. in this house has demonstrated how an opposition, even though small and not the official opposition, can spearhead an aroused public to the point where a government, hostile to the democratic will of the people, will still obey it. Had it not been for the two C.C.F. members, two years ago, labor would not even have been allowed to put its case before this house. And what small concessions were then granted to labor were won by the partnership between labor in the field and the small C.C.F. group in the house. But the people are aware how much better it would be if the government with the authority were in harmony with the democratic will of the people instead of having to be forced to do the people's will by the democratic opposition. It simply serves to emphasize that Social Credit died with the passing of Mr. Aberhart and was replaced by a good old Tory government under the present premier.

"The garden on Municipalities. "Again the C.C.F. has been spearheading the demand of the people for relief of the municipalities of costs which properly speaking are the duty of the province. Only one other government in Canada outside of Alberta charges any portion of old age pensions the local property taxpayer. The cost of indigent relief is paid half by the province in Saskatchewan and as high as 80% in the wealthier province of British Columbia. And no other province in Canada charges any of mothers' allowances to the municipalities except Alberta.

"Merchants in our towns and cities are grateful to the C.C.F. for their part in fighting for the removal of these impositions, for the fight to get 50% of the cost of education from the province and for the successful battle



A. J. E. LIESEMER, M.L.A.

waged by the C.C.F. to get the three mill social service tax removed. For years, the taxpayers in our cities and towns and rural areas have been paying through the nose for things which this Social Credit government should have been paying. And they are realizing what a boon it would be to have a government that would assume its responsibilities and would not have to be forced to do what a truly Social Credit government would have done long ago of its own accord.

Old Age Pensions

"Old people know that the fight at Ottawa for a decent pension has been carried by the C.C.F. and I have had old people with tears in their eyes thank me for the three-year fight which Mr. Roper and I carried on which finally forced this government to give some medical aid to the aged, even though they gave disappointingly little.

"The honorable member from Drumheller indicated that finally the government was going to give a more adequate pension to the teachers. For 12 years the teachers of this province have been fighting side by side with the C.C.F. to force a reluctant government to give something which old line party governments in other parts of the British Commonwealth gave long ago.

"The fact is that Social Credit is not only dead, but that your leaders have been so anxious to prove that they are better servants of monopoly than even Liberal and Tory parties that they have tried to outbid these parties in opposing the just demands of the people. And so you who come

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from the constituencies know how thoroughly the people realize that Social Credit as a movement died when Social Credit became merely an old line party under the present premier, serving the best interests of monopoly enterprise.

"And All That Stuff"

"The C.C.F. pointed the way to the minister of agriculture. I am glad to see that the minister of agriculture is finally learning, even though he was pretty slow on the uptake. Finally, if the speech from the throne is not merely bluffing, as it has done so often before, we are in this scientific age in a province predominantly agricultural, going to a p.p.y science to agriculture. Two years ago Mr. Roper and I introduced two resolutions—one dealing with weed control, the other with scientific attack on animal diseases. At that time the minister professed an extreme contempt for "vaccines, research and all that stuff." I congratulate him that he has had enough sense to learn from the C.C.F. and that he at least is doing something at last to follow the will of the people as we have so consistently brought to his attention. I am not sure, however, that it is not too late. A contemporary writer on political history, Dr. Harry W. Laidler, maintains that history indicates

that when an opposition forces a government to adopt opposition policies, that government is already on its way out.

"One of the most startling bits of surrender of the Social Credit cabinet to the Big Shots is the manner in which this cabinet has regimented the motorists into the hands of the international financiers through the financial insurance companies. At least \$3,000,000 has been gouged out of the pockets of Alberta motorists and farmers and drained into the pockets of the financial Big Shot masters.

"In Saskatchewan the motorists by co-operative effort on a province-wide scale get more protection for \$6 than in Alberta we get for \$30 to \$50—and all the money remains in the province. But your cabinet tells you 'That is Socialism' and you vote against it. Yes, it is Socialism and the people of Alberta want that kind of Socialism. Your own Social Credit convention asked for that kind of Socialism. And you turned them down.

Better Smarten Up

"You see, your cabinet is so anxious to prove to the financial Big Shots that they are on their side that they have proven it to the people, too. And so I say to the back-benchers 'You'd better smarten up, boys.' The cabinet will get the support of the Big Shots all right, but they are going to support you out of this legislature if you don't put some pressure in caucus on your cabinet to get them to do what the people in your convention asked for!

"The field in which the farmers have probably a greater sense of frustration and annoyance with this cabinet than in any other is in rural electrification. Every year the speech from the throne hints at a promise of rural electrification, and every year the cabinet after dangling the promise in your house out on them.

"It's time the premier of this province stopped timing the rural people of Alberta. But the premier says this is Socialism and we are against it. Why, yes, it is Socialism. But the farmers want it. The Alberta Farmers' Union, the United Farmers of Alberta, the Federation of Agriculture, the Union of Municipalities and the School Trustees' Association have all asked for rural electrification under public ownership. They all want this kind of Socialism and of course, they are going to vote for it.

"Now you may think that calling it Socialism will frighten the people to vote against what they want. But it may backfire. All this name-calling is getting so common that people are beginning to laugh.

"Let's not forget the story of the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf came none believed him. When you label every reform Communist people begin to believe that what they want is Communist, and Communism loses its power to terrify.

"I warn you that if you continue for the sake of temporary political advantage to lie about your democratic opponents, there will come a time when the people will believe you and believe that reform can come only through Communism. Do not think that the Communists are so simple that they do not know this or so inept that they are not turning it to their advantage. And so I say to the members of the back-benchers.

"All the farmers of Alberta want rural electrification under public ownership. If you as cabinet want so badly to get the support of the Big Shots that they are going to turn the farmer down on this, then you better act and force your cabinet to do your bidding and the bidding of the people. Because the people of Alberta are going to

get it by their votes in the next election. And even if you make them think it is Communism.

Out-Torjoring Tories

"You see, your cabinet is out-Torjoring the Tories. For in Ontario a Tory government has long supplied electricity to farms under public ownership. And in Manitoba under a Liberal-dominated coalition, government ownership is bringing electricity to the farms. They started their scheme at the same time that we in the C.C.F. asked for this bit of Socialism which you turned down. And already they have made great progress. In the first year, according to an article in the Country Guide earlier this year, government ownership brought power to 1,000 farms, during the second year another 2,000 farms received power, and in the third year an additional 3,500 farms will enjoy the benefits. At the end of the 10-year period 43,000 of Manitoba's 58,000 farms will be electrified and eventually it will reach 80,000. This is done without any direct cost to the farmer in bringing the power to his yard. The rates are six cents for the first 50 k.w.h. and two cents per k.w.h. thereafter.

Too Expensive

"In Alberta the power companies help the cabinet by announcing yearly, and particularly just before elections, that there will be greatly increased rural electrification. But you know how many farmers in your own area have it, and that only the districts which are exceptionally wealthy can ever afford to get it. Calgary Power charges 25 cents per k.w.h. for the first 20 hours and two cents thereafter. But it costs the farmer about a minimum of \$700 to bring it to his yard, another \$300 to wire his place, and a minimum of \$500 for appliances. What farmer can afford that? The net result of this stubborn refusal to undertake this bit of socialization has meant great economic waste and will slow down the process when the C.C.F. gets to power and undertakes to bring it to the farms.

"Farmers are tiring of waiting, and especially the young veterans whose grants from D.V.A. will not cover this expenditure for electricity are buying the cheaper 32 watt gas plants, even though it costs 15 to 25 cents a k.w.h. to operate and even though these will be worthless when hydro does reach them. Only Socialism of our hydro electric plants will ever bring hydro to the farms. All farm organizations know this and are demanding public ownership. If the back-benchers have any regard for their cabinet they will exert whatever pressure is necessary to induce them to forget their monopoly enterprise friends and remember the farmers whom they are supposed to represent and serve.

"By refusing to undertake provincial social ownership of hydro electric power in order to bring it to the farms, your cabinet is telling your constituents that the profits of its monopoly supporters mean more to it than the welfare of the whole rural community of Alberta. Is it any wonder that your constituents are saying that Social Credit is dead?

"Another example of the wanton giving away of our resources is in the oil sands. The honorable member from Grande Prairie said it was not fair to let oil companies take the risk and then not get the profit. But surely then he too must condemn this arrangement in the case of Oil Sands Ltd., where the government by order-in-council forced the people of Alberta to take all the risk and arranged for all the profit if any to go to a private enterprise. Our public Social Credit is being used for private gain. The way the premier plays this game with the public funds it is 'heads' to the public funds, tails private enterprise gains."

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The sudden jump in the price of butter which Canadians experienced last fall was a shock that has left a lot of us still talking to ourselves. The natural reaction is that we are being robbed by somebody. Maybe it is by those who milk the cows. Maybe by those who process the cream into butter. We are sure that 70 cents per pound is outrageous. For several generations



we have been spreading our toast and sandwiches with two-bit butter until we just took it for granted this price was about the limit. So now we are looking for a cheaper substitute—olive-margarine. Give us, oh Lord, our daily margarine!

Well, I, for one, hope we do not fall into temptation like that. I don't believe margarine is the solution for the high price of butter. Neither do I believe that we are being robbed by those who milk the cows or churn the cream into butter. That profiteering takes place by speculators, black marketers and combines handling butter—I would not be surprised. But not by those who rise in the early hours of the morning and go with lanterns to the barn to do the chores. Or by the co-operative dairies that process cow-juice into butter.

The reason we had two-bit butter for so many years is because, due to circumstances over which the farmers had no control, they were obliged to subsidize the price of butter by long hours of unpaid labor by themselves and their families. When the rest of us were taking our cat-naps, the farmers were doing their chores. When the rest of us were away to a show, or a bingo game, after our 8-hour working day, the farmers were starting for the barn to milk the cows and to separate the milk. In his uneven struggle with the elements, grasshoppers and other parasites, the farmer had to find a means whereby he could exploit his own labor to survive. As a small-time dairy provided the means. And, so we had cheap butter. And cheap eggs. And cheap pork.

The war has changed this picture at least for the time being. Devastation in many countries and increased buying power at home during full-time war employment has lifted the farmer to a better bargaining position. He does not have to exploit his family to the same extent. He can collect something for those long hours that he could charge before. So, he gets 55 cents for butter. Of course, his operating costs have gone up, too. Dairying has become a business also, not a sideline. It's a 400 million dollar business. It's an important part of the Canadian economy affecting thousands of people. I think it is an industry of which we should be jealous. If we permit this industry to wither away we shall be sorry.

Reduction of our cow population will affect the flow and the price of milk. Both come from the same udder. Margarine produces come from foreign land—like most of our oil. Our goods are controlled by foreign monopolies. For a while—a cheap substitute. Pretty soon we would find ourselves at their mercy. Like we are now at the mercy of international oil combine for our motor fuel in spite of Leduc. Then—up goes margarine, just like gas. There is a way to pay the

The People Speak

Letters to the editor may be published under a pseudonym, but in each case the name and address of the writer must be forwarded to the editor as evidence of good faith. The People's Weekly takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by correspondents and will not publish any letters exceeding 300 words in length.

THE MYSTERY VOICE

Editor, People's Weekly.
Sir: A certain individual purporting to represent a group of people independent of all political parties and using the name of John Q. Citizen is broadcasting over the radio to the electorate of Alberta.

The appeal is made for the formation of a government at the forthcoming provincial elections which would be neither Social Credit, Liberal nor C.C.F.

This would be achieved by nominating the man most suitable for the position in the constituency and then electing him to parliament. I presume as a rubber stamp for Imperial Oil, Calgary Power, etc.

While it is true, as John Q. Citizen said on last week's broadcast, that Social Credit was elected on a nebulous and mysterious platform in 1935, heaven forbid that the people repeat the mistake and elect another group on a platform—if one could call such a nebulous and just as mysterious.

One is tempted to wonder if John Q. Citizen and his cronies could by any chance be alarmed at the prospect of a C.C.F. government at Edmonton. At any rate, it would be very interesting to know who these gentlemen are and their real purpose in sponsoring these broadcasts.

R. M. THORNTON.

Sedalia, Alta.

THE INTELLIGENT VOTER?

Editor, People's Weekly.
Sir: Governments consider the people very intelligent when they vote them into power—is that where they think their intelligence ends?

Women's organizations, such as the United Farm Women of Alberta and others, who promote social welfare, health, education, etc., look for and expect support and consideration from the government.

During the war every woman in Canada, and especially farm women, did their full share in their duty to their country, but they did resent being exploited by Big Business and protested to the government against the very low sugar ration, as well as molasses

farmer a decent price for his long hours of labor and for his risks with nature and place butter within the reach of all. That way is—subsidy. As Socialist Britain does. As we did during the war. Why not drain some of the enormous profits of Canadian monopolies through excess taxes and spread it on the bread of Canada's growing boys and girls? Let us have more cows and fewer millionaires. As to margarine: You can have it—I don't want it.



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By M. ZELLA SPENCER

CONVENTION after convention! It would seem as though the next one would almost have to be the convention of those who do not believe in conventions. The winter season seems to be the one when the greater number of farmer conventions take place. Among others have been the U.F.A., the A.F.U., the A.F.A. To anyone not connected with farming, there might be the query as to what these different alphabetical arrangements mean.

As nearly as I can define them—and someone else might do differently—there was first the U.F.A. (United Farmers of Alberta), for many years the only educational farm organization in the province. It later entered the political field and formed the provincial government for several years and sent a large number of representatives to the federal house.

After a time there was a split in the body, probably owing partly to the political entry of Social Credit in the province. Also there was the contention of some that the U.F.A., with its associated co-operatives, was being dominated by the latter, the members of which were not all "dirt farmers". About this time the A.F.U. (Alberta Farmers' Union), a hitherto small body, extended its activities.

The A.F.A. (Alberta Federation of Agriculture) is the provincial section of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Both the U.F.A. and the A.F.U., with many farm business organizations, are affiliated with the A.F.A.

Looking at the resolutions to be brought before the different conventions, an onlooker I think might very well ask: "Why the

three organizations since their aims seem so similar and they are all Alberta farm bodies?"

The subject of amalgamation has been discussed and passed with majority votes in the A.F.U. and U.F.A. at different times, and this year the U.F.A. removed one stumbling block by separating their co-operative and educational bodies.

It seems to me regrettable that there are those in both bodies who continue to be openly opposed or to throw cold water on the intention—and the former is possibly the lesser of the two evils to overcome.

Now, I haven't a doubt that there are some in both these organizations who wonder why Jews and Arabs must carry on their bitter antagonism, why the Hindus and Moslems cannot forget their differences, why Chinese opposing forces cannot lay down their arms, and all these opposing factions work together in the constructive interests of their respective countries. Yet here at home we have the members of one occupation—the farmers—of one province unable to forget their differences and bend their efforts to make one strong representative body.

As is usual in opposing activities, there are no doubt some who work with integrity of purpose and others with personal or other interests at heart. But surely it would seem the wiser course for the farmers to make themselves a more united effectual factor for their own interests and the interests of the province.

Then there was the gal who every Christmas purchased the anti-tuberculosis seals and pasted them on her chest to protect her from the disease.

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LABOR DIRECTORY

Look Here for Information Regarding Officers, Meetings, etc., of Trade Unions and Other Labor Organizations in the Province. EDMONTON

Brewery, Flour, Cereal & Soft Drink Workers of America No. 315-Meets 3rd Wednesday in Labor Hall, President, D. O. Roberts, 9611 18th Avenue, Soft Drink Branch Secretary, 9387 50th Avenue, phone 21914; Secy-Treasurer, F. Wilson, 9387 50th Avenue, phone 71987. Deliveries delegate, J. Lindsay, 10764 96th Street, phone 21941.

Garment Workers of America No. 120, United—Meets second Wednesday in each month in Labour Hall, President, Percy Williamson, 9545 106A Ave. Recorder, Secretary, Mrs. A. Smith, c/o G.W.G. Co.

Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 1528, Edmonton, Alta., United Brotherhood—Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays in the Labor Temple, President, J. A. Logan, 8187 Jasper Avenue, Phone 2677, L. D. Pollard, 9522 101A Ave.

Fire Fighters, No. 208, International Association of—Meets in No. 1 Fire Hall, President, Tom Steele, 9444 105th St., Edmonton, Secretary-Treasurer, W. Lang, 12114 Jasper Ave., Edmonton

PEOPLE'S WEEKLY

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March 6, 1948

PEOPLE WOULD HAVE VOTED "AYE"

MANY thousands of Alberta people if they had been permitted to vote in the Alberta legislature on Tuesday would have voted for the C.C.F. amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The amendment regretted that the government had failed to administer the resources of the province in the best interests of the people.

The reply of the government to the C.C.F. arguments on the administration of the resources has developed into a role of special pleading on behalf of the major oil companies. Someone should remind the government ministers that these corporations who control most of the oil resources of the world do not need to have the members of a Social Credit government act as their apologists. They have their own very capable public relations staffs.

When everything that the government can say on behalf of its policy is said, the fact still remains that because it did not adopt the policies proposed year after year by the C.C.F. the people of this province are already out millions of dollars and will be out hundreds of millions during the life of already proven oil fields.

SUPPORT LIESEMER REPORT

PETULANT complaint about the action of the C.C.F. member of the Alberta legislative committee on workmen's compensation, because he submitted a minority report instead of agreeing with the other members of the committee, is quite uncalled for. Mr. Liesemer is no rubber stamp and if he were he wouldn't be a worthy representative of the labor people of Calgary who elected him.

Mr. Liesemer's minority report calls for important and reasonable amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act that are not provided for in the majority report. The C.C.F. member would have failed his constituents and violated the program of the political organization of which he is a member if he had failed to make the recommendations he has made to the legislature.

It is not too much to ask that injured workmen receive seventy-five per cent of their earnings while they are incapacitated by injury. And the C.C.F. member is making a very modest request when he asks that the maximum annual earnings on which compensation may be paid should be raised from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

It is equally reasonable also that widows who are dependents of workers who have been killed in Alberta industry should all get the \$50 per month which the majority report recommends should be paid to all who become widows after the 1948 act is passed. None of the increases made to widows in previous revisions of the act have been payable to those who were made widows before the increases took place. There are, for example, still thirty-one widows who are receiving the low amount of \$20.00 per month which was paid under one of the early acts. Mr. Liesemer wants all widows paid the new rate of \$50.00 per month.

The Workmen's Compensation Act is changed each five years. It is extremely important, therefore, that the workers of the province should press their members of the legislature for support of the Liesemer recommendations.

NASTY PERSONALITIES

IT WAS A well-deserved rebuke that opposition members of the Alberta legislature gave to Premier Ernest Manning when they took him to task for his insulting personal remarks about the leaders of the C.C.F. and the Liberal parties when he spoke in the Throne Speech debate.

No one would suggest that the leader of the C.C.F. pulls any punches when he is dealing with government policies which he believes are inimical to the people's interests. But he has yet to resort to attacks on the person of any member of the government.

The premier, on the other hand, threw off all restraint in his remarks about opposition leaders. He reserved his most inexcusable piece of churlishness for the leader of the Liberal party, when he said: "He will learn that it takes more than a swelled head and an overdose of conceit to win elections in this province." The attack was unprovoked as Mr. Prowse had not previously spoken in the debate.

Mr. Williams, the Veterans' member, said he hoped the premier's descent to rude and cruel personalities was just a temporary lapse and that the premier had not dropped into a permanent "Dr. Manning and Mr. Hyde" role, giving the people one kind of material in his radio sermons and something very different in political debates.

Mr. Liesemer's searing reply to the premier's vindictive speech constituted a well-deserved spanking. It is to be hoped that the legislature has heard its last of nasty personalities.

THE THIRD COLUMN

NO GUNNYSACKS EITHER

The Calgary Herald.

January 22:

"... In the same speech, Mr. Manning warned against people who were trying to undermine the foundations of society by fomenting 'unrest and discontent.' It's plain from this that a lot of water has flowed under Centre Street bridge since 1935. As we recollect, the Social Credit party got into power by fomenting 'unrest and discontent' in the large family size. Arise, ye prisoners of finance! Arise, ye wretched of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act!"

"Today, however, Mr. Manning takes a dim view of agitators, and so do the other members of his government. Peace and quiet are what they want: none of this demagogic claptrap about putting down the mighty from their seats, and exalting the humble and the meek."

"The wheel turns, as the wheel always does, and the Social Credit government, that once galloped so bravely in so many directions, now finds itself plodding along the same dull road as all the others. Taxes must be collected; trouble-makers viewed with alarm; chambers of commerce addressed with kindly and soothing words. All passion spent, all wrath abated, nothing left now but somehow to govern, and somehow to keep on governing."

★

A STRANGE ALCHEMY

Camrose Canadian,

Feb. 18:

"We hope the Ottawa committee appointed to look into the price structure relating to living costs will not overlook our friend the good old can of tomatoes. We'd like to know how thirty dollars a ton field tomatoes are so readily transformed into the canned product to sell at more than twenty-five cents a tin. Canadians have always paid more for bread than the people of London, England. The freight rate on Canadian wheat from Calgary to Japan was, before the war, cheaper than on feed grains from Calgary to Vancouver for the domestic market."

★

IS CRITICISM A CRIME?

Alberta Wheat Pool Budget,

Feb. 27:

"The suggestion has been made over the radio and in advertising in newspapers that the wheat pools should not be members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange because the pools criticize speculative marketing."

"The right of criticism is part and parcel of our democratic system of life. No one would say that, because an opposition political party criticized the government, it should withdraw from parliament."

"The Winnipeg Grain Exchange was built up by money extracted from the wealth produced by the grain farmers of Western Canada. If there is the slightest advantage in using the facilities of the exchange, the wheat pools, as farmer organizations, are fully entitled to do so. While they have suggested alternative methods of marketing which would provide greater price security for farmers, the wheat pools feel this is no reason for barring them from membership in the exchange. If the exchange is a democratic organization it certainly should have no resentment over criticism of its methods of operation."

FOOTPRINTS

By Their Fruits

By J. P. Griffin

"The fruit of the Spirit is . . . gentleness"

MANY people find it difficult to see any meaning or sense in the economic upsets which are being experienced by the Canadian people. We are all so conscious of the details—the extra price we pay for some article, the shortages of materials we need—that our attention is in danger of being diverted from the larger issues to our immediate petty annoyances.



The whole thing may be summed up in a few words by saying that someone is shearing the sheep. However gratifying this process may be to the owners of the wool, it is by no means as pleasant for the sheep, even though they can perhaps replace the lost wool by grazing on the pastures provided by the "Canadian way of life."

Every successful stock breeder knows the sense of satisfaction that comes to him as he sees the good flesh accumulating on the bony framework of his animals. In a similar way, the worker, who is lucky enough to own a garden, derives a great deal of satisfaction as he watches the pods on his vines fill up with wholesome juicy peas.

During the last few years the owners of Canada, and therefore of the Canadians who live here too, have watched the people achieve an unparalleled degree of

material plumpness. Farmers by the thousands have paid off their mortgages and have become again the owners of fat juicy farm estates. The workers also towards the close of the war had some bonds and savings and gratuities to show as a result of their years of employment. Of course, there were some poor feeders among the bunch that did not get fat. There were some on poor locations who, even in war time, did not reach a swollen maturity. But on the whole—the prospective harvest was good, and the owners rubbed their hands together in anticipatory glee.

There are some who are simple-minded enough to think that as appeal to the owners' better nature will induce them to stay their hands and spare the feelings of their human harvest.

Does the farmer-rent in compassion as his pig becomes "fleshy" or the feeder, shed tears over his choice beef? Does the gardener take pity on his carrots or the orchardist refrain from stripping his laden trees? Will the great capitalists of Canada be moved by any "moral rearmament" to stay their hands now? Why should they? This is the hour for which they have waited, the opportunity for profits the taking of which alone makes sense to all their plans.

Ah, yes! Deal gently with the people as their wealth increases. Feed them, clothe them, house them in some security. Keep the enemies out of the garden while the crops are maturing. But when the harvest is ready, brother, you can't be gentle then, it just wouldn't make sense; you have to move in for the kill!

"Liesemer Gets a Lift"

By JOHN KING,

Secretary, Alberta C.C.F.

ALYMER LIESEMER, our Calgary M. L. A., is a young man who often finds himself in a skeptical frame of mind, such skepticism undoubtedly being brought about by his close contact (just across the floor of the legislative chamber) with the extraordinary people who make up the present government. And so it was with some doubts and reservations in his mind that Alymer left Edmonton with me one evening for a meeting at Kingman, some 60 miles away. He felt, possibly with some justification, that this was a long way to go for just one "ordinary" C.C.F. meeting. I assured him that Kingman was one of the many places where C.C.F. support had grown and broken out and that we could count on this being much more than just an "ordinary" meeting.

Alymer was not convinced, and his unspoken answer was, "I've heard that one before." Such cynicism in such a nice young man! Well, it was a beautiful clear night, with a glorious full moon riding high in the sky. The main road was reasonably good, and we were purring along in a comfortable car. I saw that, at least, Alymer had made up his mind to enjoy the beauties of the night, the ever-changing contours of our good northern Alberta landscape, and I hoped the company of his fellow-traveller. Although here again I felt there was some reservation in his mind; perhaps Alymer, on a night such as this, would have preferred the companionship (he's a bachelor) of someone more tender and clinging than one of the male members of the C.C.F. organization staff. Am I doing you an injustice, Alymer?

At the C.C.F. Meeting

After an hour or so of pleasant riding, we hit the last few miles of cross-country travel approaching Kingman, and Alymer noticed that, almost without exception, the scattered farm homes, looming black against the snow-filled fields, were in total darkness. Not a glimmer of cheerful light showed. "Everone's at the C.C.F. meeting," I explained. "Oh, yeah," was the doubtful reply. "Sure, this is a good C.C.F. spot."

I was on a spot, too, and I prayed that the Kingman boys would really produce the goods. They did! I should have known better than to have had any doubts.

As we approached the town, the lights of the hall beckoned and gave us welcome. The long string of cars parked untidily in all directions gave me a warm inside feeling of reassurance. Until the skeptic spoke, "There must be a dance on in town; that'll sure kill our meeting." "Perhaps," I replied, "but let's have a look anyway."

Packed Hall

Yes, Liesemer got a lift! It was our C.C.F. meeting, a packed hall of one hundred and fifty friendly enthusiastic people brought to the meeting place by the result of a grand organizing job done by the Kingman group under the leadership of Ross Fleming, their young and energetic secretary. It was the kind of an organization job which can be done, should be done, and must be done by every C.C.F. group, as preparation for a meeting of this kind. Plenty of pre-meeting advertising, through personal canvass, telephone calls, posters, and so on. A really good program arranged and publicized, good door prizes consisting of a radio, a drum of gasoline and well-desired tools and donated by a C.C.F. carpenter. Interesting entertainment provided by local talent, and finally finishing up with a dandy lunch.

Grand Results

It was quite an evening, and here are the results which obtained through such an effort. Larger C.C.F. membership, more (Continued on Page 8)

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Teacher: "Johnny, what is one-fifth of three-sixteenths?"
Johnny: "I don't know exactly, Miss, but it's too small to worry about."

C.C.F. News

Nominating Convention

Veggieville—Saturday, March 13; 2:00 p.m. National Hall, Mundare. Evening public meeting; 8:30 p.m. J. E. Cook, speaker.

Reorganization Convention

St. Paul—Saturday, March 6; 2:00 p.m. Eastbourne Hall. J. E. Cook will attend.

Edson Convention Postponed

Due to bad weather conditions and resultant impassable roads, the Edson convention called for Feb. 28th was postponed until further notice. In due course members will be advised of new arrangements.

W. J. White Heads Pincher-Crows Nest Constituency Assn.

W. J. White, of Coleman, was elected president and campaign manager of the Pincher Creek Crows Nest constituency association at the convention held in Coleman recently, when John Lloyd was nominated as the C.C.F. candidate. Elmer E. Roper, provincial leader, addressed a public meeting in the evening. Other officers elected were: Vice-president, Dave Holly, of Coleman; secretary, James J. Lloyd, of Blairmore and brother of the candidate. Executive: L. M. Cleland, Cowley; C. J. Bundy, Pincher Creek; J. Ramsay, Coleman; O. Nystrum, of Blairmore; F. Capron, of Bellevue; Mrs. M. Lloyd, of Blairmore.

C.C.F. RADIO TALKS

Grande Prairie, CFCP, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.
Edmonton, CJCA, 10:15 p.m. Saturday.
Calgary, CFAC, 5:40 p.m. Saturday.
Lethbridge, CJOC, 8:30 p.m. Saturday.
Edmonton, CFRN, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.
Calgary, CFCN, 6:25 p.m. Monday.

NOMINATE JOLIFFE FOR S. YORK SEAT

OTTAWA (CPA)—"Whether it be this year, next year or later, there is going to be a C.C.F. government in Ontario," declared E. B. Joliffe, Ontario C.C.F. leader, in accepting the provincial nomination at the South York convention.

Rising Costs "Wash Out" Labor Gains

OTTAWA—Canadians received in wages, salaries and "supplementary labor income" a total of \$530,000,000 in September.

The figure was \$13,000,000 higher than for August and \$84,000,000 more than in September, 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

For the first nine months of 1947, labor income amounted to \$4,404,000,000, an increase of 18 per cent over the similar period of 1946.

But this increase in gross labor income has been more than "washed out" for the average Canadian worker by the rising cost of living—that is admitted by the government's own bureau.

MRS. CLIFFORD LEE SPEAKER AT C.C.F. MEETING MONDAY

Edmonton C.C.F. Women's Club meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. D. L. Shortliffe, 10932 87th Avenue, on Monday, March 8, at 8:00 o'clock. Mrs. Clifford E. Lee will discuss C.C.F. policy in regard to the natural resources of the province, with special reference to oil.

LESLIE HARRIS AT VALLEYVIEW CLUB

Valleyview had a visit from the provincial candidate for Grande Prairie, Leslie Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Harris spent a couple of days in the community. They attended a whist party and also a regular monthly club meeting. Later we had a successful whist party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Peterson, where the tickets on a fruit cake were drawn. This raffle and that of two C.C.F. cook books were the special undertaking of the ladies of the group in response to the appeal to women as put forth by Miss Mary Crawford at the convention last November.

CLOSE SHAVE FOR THE LIBERAL GOVT

OTTAWA (CPA)—Close shave for the government on February 25 was greeted with opposition cheers when a vote on the production of papers (requested by D. K. Hazen, P-C, St. John-Albert) was defeated by the government with a majority of five. The count was 103-98.

TOWN MEETING ON AIR SUNDAY, 7 P.M.

One of the radio programs which is proving of wide interest to Alberta listeners is the Town Meeting in Canada Forum, which is broadcast from Vancouver every Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock. It is released from CKUA in Edmonton.

ONTARIO LABOR FED. TO SUPPORT THE C.C.F.

TORONTO (CPA)—One hundred and ninety-two delegates representing 200,000 workers attended the most successful convention ever held by the Ontario Federation of Labor (O.F.L.). With Joe Mackenzie, national director of the United Rubber Workers, in the chair, the convention dealt with over 50 resolutions, ranging from demands for scholarships for worthy high school pupils to enable them to have a university education, to full-fledged support of the C.C.F. in the coming provincial and federal elections.

Close Vote

AS COMMONS O.K.'S PACT ON IMPORTS

OTTAWA (CPA)—The Abbott bill, designed to conserve U.S. dollars, the bill which in fact brings Canada into far closer economic relationship with the United States than ever before, was passed in the house of commons on February 24 after many days' debate and several attempted amendments. Only the Liberal party backed the bill with their vote; the three opposition parties summoned 92 votes to oppose the 102 on the government side.

Both in second reading and final reading, the C.C.F. made strong efforts to remove from the bill a feature which was admittedly introduced to placate the U.S. The feature applies import restrictions not only against the U.S. whose dollars are scarce in this country, but at the same time against Great Britain and every other nation with whom Canada has trade relations.

The opposition kept the bill in committee stage for two weeks, bombarding C. D. Howe, minister of reconstruction, with questions about his "constructive" program to improve Canada's trade position with the United States. The habitual truculence of the minister, who insisted that his program was not under review in that debate, and refused to vouchsafe any information whatever, resulted in hours of wrangling and a general feeling among members of the opposition that the government is making a fundamental change in the direction of Canada's economy without properly consulting parliament.

An Expensive Item ... In Your Budget

By MARY R. CRAWFORD, President, C.C.F. Provincial Women's Committee
DO YOU drive a car? Soon you will be buying your automobile license and your driver's license, and you will also pay the the Unsatisfied Judgment Fund. Everyone who operates a motor vehicle must pay that dollar. It is compulsory. In addition, you will pay 25 dollars or more to a private insurance company.



Now, if you were in Saskatchewan you would pay the motor vehicles license, the driver's license, and instead of a compulsory one dollar you would pay about a compulsory five dollars. And that is all. You would be protected as well as you are in Alberta and you would be saved upwards of 25 dollars.

The government of Alberta wrote a leaflet last year explaining this. Here is what it says: "Doesn't Make Sense"

"Strong pressure was brought on the government to introduce compulsory automobile insurance. But, as we have stressed over and over again, your government is strongly opposed to measures of

compulsion. Once any government adopts compulsion as the basis of its policies, it is treading the road towards the totalitarian state. Many persons have strong objections on grounds of conscience to insurance."

That does not make sense. If five dollars is compulsion is not one dollar also compulsion?

A Rose by Any Other Name
As for the people who object to insurance on grounds of conscience, I should like to have a little chat with some of them—a chat about the nature of logic. If they object to insuring themselves, would they not also object to paying one dollar to insure other people. True, the Alberta act is called the Automobile Accident Indemnity Act. The word "insurance" is not in the title. But Mr. Manning knows that a rose by any other name smells just as sweet. I heard him say so just about a week ago.

Women should study the charges on the family car. Directly or indirectly, they help foot the bill.

I made an error last week. Please note that Mrs. Lyn Mosley, of Claresholm, is representative for the Macleod constituency.

Remember to listen at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, CFRN.

Mrs. C. Y. MacPhee, of Camrose, will speak over CFRN on Wednesday, March 10, at 3:30 p.m.

Jobless Insurance

MacINNIS POINTS TO FLAWS IN ACT

OTTAWA (CPA)—Inadequacy of Canada's piecemeal social security legislation was graphically illustrated in the house of commons on February 26th when Angus MacInnis (C.C.F., Vancouver East) told a story to show the difficulty he meets in answering letters about unemployment insurance.

"The act is limited to involuntary unemployment, and the average person who contributes to it cannot understand why he cannot get benefits when he is unemployed for other reasons."

"Suppose John Doe is a contributor to the unemployment insurance fund. He becomes unemployed and makes application for benefit. For three weeks he applies at the employment office for work, but no work being available he receives his unemployment insurance cheque.

No Pay If Ill
"On the fourth week John Doe

is ill and he cannot go to the office, but his wife goes and says that she is sorry but Mr. Doe could not come this morning, that he is ill and has been ill for a week. But there is no cheque for him, because, although John Doe is unemployed, has no job and there is no job for him, he is not unemployed under the act; he is sick, and consequently when he needs his cheque the most he cannot get it. He cannot get it because the act does not provide for unemployment through sickness."

"The government ought to develop an over-all social security program, national in scope; with benefits available to everyone who is prevented from earning a living for himself and dependents for any reason beyond his control; and with benefits related to a reasonable standard of living."

Misses: "Mabel, I'd rather you didn't wear any jewelry when you wait on the guests at dinner tonight."

Maid: "Well, I've nothing very valuable, Ma'am, but thanks for the tip, just the same."

A DOUBLE GIFT

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Yes, our bi-lingual youth magazine is starting its second year. It's the infant member of the C.C.F. chain—the chain which includes News Comment, Across Canada, and seven provincial newspapers.

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Speaking for the People

RADIO TALK BY ELMER E. ROPER, PROVINCIAL LEADER OF THE C.C.F.

FOR THE past five years the C.C.F. members of the Alberta legislature have been using every opportunity provided by the rules of the house to say in the legislature the things we thought the people we represent would say if they were there. It is always a matter of some gratification to us to receive confirmation of the fact that we have been expressing the needs and desires of the people of the province.

The other day in the legislature I quoted extensively from the resolutions which were presented to the Alberta government on February 10th of this year, by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farmers' Union. It was a great satisfaction to quote from resolutions after resolution and recall to the house the fact that in previous years we had said exactly the same things in the legislature; that we had pressed the government for action on the very things for which the farm organizations, all three of them, were asking.

Sneering Disdain

Now it is true that our suggestions have not always been received very graciously. It is true in too many parliamentary assemblies, and it completely and always true in the present Alberta legislature, that members sitting on the government side of the house greet with sneering disdain any and every suggestion which comes from the opposition benches. But, as everyone knows, it is public opinion that makes governments move to do the people's will, and the chief function of an opposition in a legislative assembly is to express public opinion in the house; to

say, in other words, what the people would say if they were there.

Roads

Here are some examples I mentioned in the legislature. Roads. There were several government speakers in the debate who took the position that there was no one anywhere in the province expressing dissatisfaction with the government's road policy, except a few C.C.F. agitators. Well, there were several resolutions on roads presented to the government by the farm organizations. One of them expressed the opinion that the taxpayers had not received good value for the huge sums of their money that had been spent on roads. The other was emphatic in demanding that there be a better balance between the amount spent on main and tourist highways, as compared with market roads. In 12 years \$35 million has been spent on main and secondary highways and something over \$8 million has been spent on district highways and local roads. The resolutions from the farm organizations asked for a more even division.

Rural Electrification

Rural electrification. Five years ago we started to talk about this in the legislature. We have called the attention of the house to the fact that in no country of the world is rural electrification provided on any widespread scale, except by public ownership of a central power system. It is gratifying to find from the resolutions from the farm groups that the C.C.F. program in respect to rural electrification as expressed by C.C.F. members in the legislature is exactly the same as that presented to the government by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the United Farmers of Alberta and the Alberta Farmers' Union.

It has been the same with education, agriculture, health matters and many other subjects. In every case the proposals which the C.C.F. members have been placing before the legislature year after year are practically identical with those presented to the government by the farm organizations. I repeat that it is a matter of gratification to us to receive this confirmation of the fact that we have been successful in expressing the needs of the people.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF QUEBEC CO-OP BODY

OTTAWA (CPA)—With its recent annual meeting in Montreal, the Co-operative, Federec de Quebec, central marketing and wholesale co-op serving Quebec's farm supply co-operatives, celebrated its 25th anniversary. The Federec, owned by 466 local co-operatives with 46,000 members, reported a record year of business totalling \$41,900,000.

Cold Closes Auto Plants



Thousands of United Auto Workers (CIO) stream from the Dodge motor car factory in Detroit as the plant shut down during the last cold spell following orders to curtail industrial gas for home consumption. Practically all plants in the area closed their doors.

Production Lags, Population Grows

LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.—The world is producing less today than it did ten years ago, but its population has grown by 200,000,000, as many people as live in France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

That's the outstanding reality of world economies now, say the economists of the United Nations in a recent report. The report, entitled "Salient Features of the World Economic Situation, 1945-47," is now under study here by the U.N. Economic and Social Council, to which it was given as a basis for possible world-wide economic recommendations and programs.

Lagging production means, the economists point out, that there is far less than enough food to go around in the world. "The world food situation is now as critical as any time since the end of the Second World War," the report says.

The shortage of food, and the resulting rise in its price, the economists stress, runs through the whole productive process, reducing the physical strength of workers and forcing increases in costs.

Serious Scarcities

Shortages are not limited to food, however, the U.N. report shows, and "even if the present production of manufactured goods, primary products and food were at pre-war peak levels, there would still be serious scarcities. If, moreover, effective demand is maintained in the years ahead, supplies may continue to be inadequate

unless deliberate steps are taken, both on national and international levels, to bring supply into a more adequate balance with needs."

In addition to the gloomy picture of shortages, an outline of a greatly changed world economic system is appearing, the report shows. One outstanding fact is that "the economic potential of the United States of America has enormously increased during the war, while that of many other important production centers has considerably diminished."

An indication of how much the world now depends on the United States is disclosed by trade statistics. "In 1938," the report reveals, "United States exports alone exceeded those of any other country and represented 14 per cent of the value of all goods entering into world trade; during the first half of 1947, . . . they represented a third of world exports." Imports into the U.S.A. have not nearly kept pace with the great increase in exports.

Need Production

This shift in productive facilities and the great excess of U.S. exports over imports is behind the present world shortage of United States dollars the report says. The long remedy is increased production outside of the United States which must, at the same time, be willing to increase the amount of its imports.

A clue to future developments—and of possibly more long-run significance than the economic concentration in the U.S.A.—is that the distinction between "industrialized" countries and those producing raw materials is no longer sharp because of war time development, the report indicates. If new development schemes foster increased production in these regions, some of the world's economic illnesses may be cured.

Only Part of Trouble

Shortages are only a part of the world's economic troubles, however, since dangerous inflationary pressures, the report points out, are spread throughout the world.

In most countries, inflation is the result of tremendous demand in relation to scarce supplies of consumer goods. The high demand, in turn, grows out of national budget deficits, high net exports, high rates of private investment or the spending of wartime accumulations of money.

Suggests Remedies

When it comes to remedies for economic troubles, the report has these suggestions:

1. Production must be concentrated on the key goods and services, such as food, fuel,

steel and transport, which are needed to produce more. Inflation is an emergency situation which requires emergency measures, including monetary and fiscal action and even, if necessary, direct control of investments and rationing of essential consumer goods.

3. Coordinated national and international economic action is needed. Planning for an increase of food and fuel production is the most urgent problem.

"The bulk of the human, natural and financial resources that will be required for an increased volume of production in any country," the report declares, "must necessarily come from that country itself. In the war-devastated countries, and in the least developed countries, however, foreign financing and foreign goods are bound to play an important part in speeding reconstruction and in promoting economic development."

The report concludes that although there are many immediate problems, this is the time to plan ahead in order to maintain world-wide full employment in the years ahead, especially since many factors in the world's economy now may be impermanent.

SODIUM SULPHATE SETS NEW RECORD

REGINA—A record of more than 162,000 tons of sodium sulphate was produced from four recovery plants in Saskatchewan during 1947, according to figures released by W. James Bichan, director of mineral resources. This exceeds by 31,000 tons the previous record year of 1942, 800,000 Tons Annually.

"It has been estimated," he said, "that by the end of 1948, paper mills in the United States and Canada will be using more than 800,000 tons of sodium sulphate annually. This represents over 80 per cent of the total North American industrial consumption of this mineral."

Sodium sulphate is used in the manufacture of brown paper, corrugated packing boxes and similar paper products where high strength is required.

Pointing out that practically all sodium sulphate produced in Canada came from Saskatchewan, Bichan said the government-owned plant at Chaplin was expected to begin operations shortly, and that its output would provide a substantial boost to production in 1948, bringing it well above 1947 figures.

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In Canada

NO LAW TO OUTLAW MONOPOLY'S HOLD

OTTAWA (CPA)—There is no law in Canada outlawing monopolies. This admission was drawn from F. A. McGregor, commissioner, Combines Investigations Act, by the C.C.F. members of the Prices Committee. Mr. McGregor stated that legislation outlawing combines would be non-constitutional. Time after time Progressive Conservative and Liberal members of the house of commons have chided C.C.F. members for saying that a large portion of the Canadian economy was controlled by monopolies. "If you have evidence that monopolies exist why don't you make charges under the Combines Investigations Act?" they have said.

It has been quite clear all along, however, that there is no charge one can make against a monopoly for being a monopoly in Canada. Canadian laws in this respect are much less severe than in the United States where monopolies are outlawed.

No Way of Knowing
Furthermore, Mr. McGregor stated to the committee that where monopolies existed there was no way of knowing whether the prices charged by the monopoly were too high. The government's standard answer to the monopoly problem is to try to restore competition in the belief that competition will bring prices down. In most of the monopoly fields in Canada, however, it is not easy to restore competition unless the government takes an active interest in the business itself.

Irvine Asks for Details
Following this evidence, William Irvine, C.C.F. member for Cariboo, pressed the commissioner to answer whether or not monopolies existed in each of a long list of products. To save time Mr. Irvine handed the list to Mr. McGregor, who will table a reply at a later date. The commodities cited by Mr. Irvine as being subject to various degrees of monopoly control included aluminum, nickel, electric lamps, matches, dustuffs, telephone equipment, steel tubes, cement, lead and zinc, tobacco, rubber footwear and a multitude of chemical and other products. The cost of all of these commodities, many of them used in manufacturing, enter at some point into the cost of living, argued Mr. Irvine.

Since legislation outlawing combines is unconstitutional and no means has been devised for protecting the Canadian public from the evils of private monopoly the only remedy left would seem to be public ownership.



A BIT OF Nonsense

A business man came home one night looking very weary.

"You look tired, dear," said his wife sympathetically. "Have you had a very busy day at the office?"

"Well, not exactly; but you see the office boy came in with the old story of going to his grandmother's funeral, so I decided to teach him a lesson and accompany him."

"Of course, you found it was a football match?"

"No such luck," he said with a rueful grin. "It was his grandmother's funeral!"

Two fishermen named Smith, living near each other, had met with misfortune, one having lost his wife, the other his boat.

A visitor called by mistake on the man who had lost his boat, thinking he was the widower.

"Good morning, Mr. Smith," she said. "I am sorry to hear of your loss."

"Oh, it don't much matter. She wasn't up to much," Smith replied.

"Dear me!" exclaimed the visitor.

"Ay, she were a rickety old crock. I was always in danger of my life with her. Indeed, I offered her to my mate only last week, but he wouldn't have her. I've had my eye on another for some time past."

Two women were comparing their experiences of matrimony. "Yes," said one. "I owe much of my success and happiness during marriage to two books. They have been a source of help and inspiration lots of times."

"Two books?" exclaimed the other. "Whatever were they?" "Mother's cookery book and father's cheque book."

THE BIG FELLOWS STICK TOGETHER

By Lorne Ingle

INTERLOCKING directorates, concentration of control, domination of small business by Big Business, the increasing quest for profits—all at the expense of the consumer—these are the bits and pieces of the story being unfolded at the House of Commons Prices Committee by witness after witness.

One of the men who had previously given sensational evidence of profiteering in fruits and vegetables sent the committee a telegram asking for a hearing at which he might complete his testimony and state in part:

"If we can secure the co-operation of the King government we sincerely believe that the present continuing trend toward inflation and near if not complete monopoly of certain lines of business by a few individuals or firms can be at least retarded if not immediately corrected, thereby bringing about a gradual and orderly decline in prices or in living costs."

"All of which we believe, is necessary if this country is to avoid the disastrous consequences of free enterprise carried to the point of license to create shortages, manipulate markets and otherwise create a situation whereby the privileged few who control finance and are in a position to dictate to the political party in power, can and undoubtedly will continue unfair and unethical trade practices which can only lead to chaos and widespread suffering by all but the privileged few who somehow seem to manage to gradually

secure a stranglehold on more and more of Canadian business."

This was no C.C.F.er speaking. This was a man who had helped to found the great Piggy-Wiggly and Safeway chain store organizations on this continent years ago. His name is George Christenson and he is now national director of the foods division of the Retail Merchants Association of Canada!

Linked Together

The committee inquiring into the price of bread found that one of the largest chains in eastern Canada, Dominion Stores, buy their bread from five suppliers in Montreal, all of whom are linked together. Some of them are owned by Consolidated Bakeries of Canada, which operates bakery chains in eastern Canada and which in turn is owned by a subsidiary of the Ogilvie Flour Mills.

One of Dominion Stores' Montreal suppliers was General Bakeries, who also supplied Dominion Stores in Toronto. The president of Dominion Stores and the president of General Bakeries are one and the same man, J. W. Horsey. The vice-president of Dominion Stores, however, told the committee that Mr. Horsey's presence on both directorates "has no influence on our bread operations in the least, price or otherwise!"

Reluctant

The baking company witnesses were reluctant to give their connections with milling firms when pressed by C.C.F. members. The Hull manager of Regal Bakeries didn't want to say who the principal shareholder in his company was. When ordered to answer he stated that it was Glenora Securities Ltd. William Irvine (C.C.F., Cariboo) then asked him

point-blank if Glenora Securities Ltd. was not a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ogilvie Flour Mills, to which he replied "I wouldn't know!" He did admit, however, that Regal Bakeries bought all their flour from Ogilvie.

Dominated by Big Bakeries

A former W.P.T.B. bakery administrator told the committee that the trade was dominated by the large bakeries, who took the leadership in setting the price. He told of a meeting in Toronto in September last, following de-control of bread, at which six large bakeries were represented. He said that at that meeting "there was a feeling on the part of those who were not mill-controlled that they were being railroaded!"

Issue Ultimatum

When questioned by Angus MacInnis (C.C.F., Vancouver East), the witness stated that the miller-controlled bakeries issued what amounted to an ultimatum to the others as to what the new price of bread should be. The "ultimatum" came from Mr. C. H. G. Short, president of the Inter-City Baking Co. Ltd. Mr. Short's firm was going to raise their price three cents a loaf. The others had to fall in line. Mr. Short's firm owns a string of eastern bakeries and is in turn owned by the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Mr. Short, incidentally, is also president of that company. This same Mr. Short was the government's flour administrator!

The committee are still trying to find out why bread prices of different companies, both wholesale and retail, went up simultaneously in January. Could it be coincidence?

Farm Loans Act

BANK INTEREST IS TOO HIGH SAYS M.P.

OTTAWA (CPA)—A lower interest rate, and a crop failure clause, were urged by Hazen Argue (C.C.F., Wood Mountain) as needed amendments to the Farm Improvement Loans Act, which has lent only \$31,000,000 out of a possible \$250,000,000 to farmers during its three years of operation.

The bill was up before the commons on February 24, in a government move to extend its life for another three years.

Farmers' experience with mounting debts in the drought years was one reason why they hesitated to make use of these loans, Mr. Argue claimed. He regretted that no provision was made to suspend interest charges during years of crop failure.

Five per cent was considered too high an interest rate, and too great a concession to the chartered banks through which the loans were made.

Profitable for Banks

"Through this measure the government is saying to the banks, 'We will give you the high rate of 5% interest and also guarantee you against loss up to 10% of the aggregate amount of your loans. We will allow you to make the profits and the Canadian people, through the government, will pay any losses you are likely to sustain.' I say this is leaning over backwards in an attempt to make very easy and profitable business for the chartered banks of Canada," Mr. Argue said.

Favors Credit Unions

Other C.C.F. members from Saskatchewan urged improvements in the act. T. J. Bentley (Swift Current) said he saw no reason why the loans should not be made through credit unions, "the people's banks," as well as through the chartered banks. Mr. Bentley also challenged the government to explain why the operation of the act was limited to a further three years. "It should be extended for at least 16 years," Mr. Bentley maintained.

The use of credit unions in handling the loans was supported by P. E. Wright (C.C.F., Melfort). He urged that in view of the very small interest paid by the banks on deposits, 5% was an extremely high rate for them to ask on loans with a 10% guarantee from the government.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

Five-year-old Willie had been taught that Sunday is not a day for play. One Sunday morning his mother found him sailing his toy boat in the bathtub.

"Willie," she said, "don't you know it's wicked, to sail boats on Sunday?"

"Don't get excited, Mother," he replied calmly. "This isn't a pleasure trip. This is a missionary boat going to Africa."

MEMBERSHIP GROWS IN ONTARIO CO-OP

OTTAWA (CPA)—About 150 delegates and visitors attending the annual meeting of the Ontario Co-operative Union in Toronto, February 19-20, heard reports revealing considerable progress during the year under review. Membership in the union, which is open to all types of bona fide co-operatives (except credit unions, which are affiliated through the Ontario Credit Union League), had grown from 100 to 146, including 96 farm supply and producer co-operatives, 20 consumer co-ops, 18 medical service co-ops and 12 others unclassified.

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INCORPORATED 27 MAY 1870

Amendment on

(Continued from Page 1)
ment had been forced by public opinion to make certain changes in policy.

"We welcome these," Mr. Roper said, "even if in the case of the Leduc field it was a case of locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen. But we deplore the manner in which the promised reservation of 50% of acreage for the crown on an alleged checkerboard basis has been distorted in the Woodbend area," he added.

"I have heard of marked cards and loaded dice," the C.C.F. leader told the house, "but I never expected to see the day when anyone would try to rig a checkerboard."

Mr. Roper said the C.C.F. policy in respect to oil development had been adopted by the annual C.C.F. convention, which had confirmed the position taken by C.C.F. members of the legislature.

It provided, he said, that "in every part of the province where exploratory activity is being carried on, or where oil in productive quantities has been discovered, the government should reserve, or re-acquire, checkerboard areas at least equal in size to those leased to private individuals or corporations, to be developed by public ownership when the field is proven."

In his address on the Speech from the Throne (which is reported in another column), Mr. Llesemer before moving his amendment said:

Oil for Monopoly

"The greatest loss to the people of Alberta is in the wanton extravagant tossing into the lap of monopoly enterprise of our greatest natural heritage of all our oil resources. Surely Social Credit is dead when this great reservoir of social wealth is given to private monopoly. Here, too, the premier is doing a little two-timing of the public. For he now says the cabinet has adopted the checkerboard system advocated by the C.C.F."

"I have here a map of the Woodbend field which is the first the government has ever called a checkerboard and that only after the public had agreed that the C.C.F. idea of dividing with the oil companies was a fair compromise. I have colored in on it in red the areas which the government has leased to the Imperial Oil Co. and in green what they have reserved to the public not to be developed by the public, of course, but to be sold at presumably higher rates than the Imperial Oil pays to smaller oil companies. Well, here is your cabinet's idea of a checkerboard. Right here in the middle (showing map) is the Woodbend well. So the government gives the Imperial Oil ALL the squares closest to the well where there is most likely to be more oil and reserves for small companies the land farthest from it, where there is less likelihood of being oil. Now, there is one exception to that. On the south, next the Leduc field, they have reserved a row of half-sections. But notice that at the north and farthest from any known field they have reserved a row one and a half sections wide. Well, even the honorable member from Grande Prairie will agree that this is the least checkerboard like checkerboard he has ever seen."

"Actually, the only thing in common between the C.C.F. checkerboard plan for public sharing in the wealth of the oil

fields is the hame. This cabinet plan would be better called the dinner-plate policy—with the dinner in the centre reserved to the Imperial Oil, and the government with statesmanlike foresight reserving for the public the clean plate around the outside. Oh, there is a little break in a couple of places—a little gravy spilled over on the edge of the plate, and the cabinet made sure the Imperial Oil is getting that too."

Give Them Away

"Well, Mr. Speaker, of all the wrong policies initiated by the cabinet the policies on natural resources—oil sands, oil and hydro—are the worst. These resources are the property of all of us and the cabinet has thrown them to private interest with abandoned disregard for the best interests of the people. When the premier cannot find enough money to staff our schools with teachers and yet gives the oil monopolies enough in one year to staff our schools for 10 years that, to my mind, is not the practice of the Golden Rule."

"When the premier cannot find enough money to build market roads, to give old people full medical care, and to guarantee to all of us security in hospitalization, and to bring hydro power to rural homes, and can yet let the eastern and foreign interests take from us forever the tremendous wealth of our vast natural heritage that is neither Social Credit nor an ordinary godly act."

"When God placed beneath our feet these great pools of wealth in oil, for the enjoyment of all of us, He did not put up a sign, 'Reserved For Most of the Province.' But the premier of this province did! And that, in my opinion, is not the act of a Christian premier. It is high time, if they are ever going to act, that the back-benchers took into their hands the power that is theirs to force this government, no matter how much against its will, to do what their constituents back home want done and save for the benefit of the people before it is forever too late some of this wealth that belongs to the people but every week, every day, every hour, is being carted away to the lands of our wealthy masters."

Urges Government

(Continued from Page 1)
ment in the commons this week-end; continuance of the freight assistance policy of feeds until such time as it may be embodied in a national feed policy; floor prices for agricultural products; federal marketing legislation.

Price control on mill feeds and protein concentrates was urged, and a full investigation into fertilizer prices.

Again the C.F.A. asked for a "statistical index" as a standard in the application of the Agricultural Prices Support Act. Assistance under this act is now provided solely on the whim of the minister or the chairman of the board, and the need for a precise standard was strongly pressed in the commons last week by P. E. Wright (C.C.F., Melfort).

Want Health Insurance

A section of the C.F.A. brief emphasized their concern "with respect to the lack of health and medical facilities in the rural districts of Canada. The C.F.A. called for the early implementation of a national health insurance plan to include all citizens, and special measures to increase the number of medical students and to direct graduates to rural areas. The contrast between bulk of population and number of doctors in rural parts was noted in the following table:

	Rural Pop.	Rural Doctors
B.C.	47%	11%
Alberta	62.9%	19%
Sask.	74.9%	35%
Man.	56.5%	15%
Ont.	36%	9%
Que.	47%	11%
N.B.	66%	21%
N.S.	51%	19%
P.E.I.	76%	37%

Sask. Awards SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 12 FARM YOUTHS

REGINA. — Twelve Saskatchewan farm youths have been awarded \$55 agricultural scholarships under the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Program, Education Minister W. S. Lloyd has announced. Under these special awards the youths will attend the School of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, for a five-months period during the winter, with free transportation in addition to the amount of the scholarships.

Practical Course

The course is a practical one including classes in farm mechanics, farm management, livestock, crop production, dairying, poultry, rural life and citizenship. To qualify, applicants were required to be between 17 and 30 years of age and to have at least grade eight education. In addition to this course, the dominion-provincial youth training program provides two-week and five-week rural agricultural courses during the winter for young people at various selected centres throughout the province, Mr. Lloyd said.

Calgary Request

(Continued from Page 1)

the faculty of commerce. This, he said, was a "modest and practical request". If a full faculty of education were granted, he declared, most of the subjects necessary for a Bachelor of Arts degree would be taught anyway and only three of four subjects would need to be added for the Bachelor of Commerce degree. "So," he continued, "it would be poor educational economy not to provide the three full faculties at once." The Calgary school at present, he said, is being "starved to a slow death" and it is "a disgrace to the government responsible for the policy."

Asks for Committee

Mr. Llesemer called on the government to provide for the appointment of a committee representing the department of education, the university as well as farm, labor, professional and business groups interested in the educational needs of the province, to investigate the desirability and feasibility of instituting additional faculties in Calgary.

He pointed out that if the present government policy continued, the province would forever be short about 2,000 qualified teachers, which would mean that from 30,000 to 50,000 Alberta boys and girls would grow to maturity without adequate educational opportunity to fit them for the struggle of life.

Mr. Llesemer declared that buildings could be made available cheaply at the old No. 2 Wireless School in Calgary. He estimated that an appropriation of \$50,000 would be sufficient to take care of additional staff if his proposal were put into operation.

Liesemer Gets

(Continued from Page 4)

People's Weekly readers, greater goodwill and voting support for the C.C.F., approximately \$100 added to the Victory Fund, an opportunity for the constituency candidate to meet the people, and finally, and perhaps most important of all, "Liesemer got a lift" and through him "Roper got a lift," the kind of a lift which will enable these two men to carry on the struggle of the people with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

This is the kind of job all C.C.F.'ers must do if we want to build a winning movement.

Yes, "Liesemer got a lift," and the skeptic was still smiling and humming to himself when we pulled into Edmonton at 2:30 a.m. He even tells me that he was up and around at 8:30 in the morning. He did a lot better than I.

Canada's Price Structure Blows Up, Britain's Steady

By DONALD D. MacDONALD
Despite Britain's food shortages, prices to the British housewife have not gone up. A just and efficient rationing system coupled with price control guarantees each his fair share of foods like butter, milk, meat and bread at prices which the lowest incomes can meet.

Of course, the British Government is paying more for these foods. But the extra cost is being met by subsidies, paid out of the treasury so that the nation as a whole bears the extra burden and low food costs continue for the consumer.

Wild Orgy of Profitteering

How different in Canada! We have an abundance of food, and therefore rationing is not required. But we have no price controls. Therefore re-negotiation of the British food contracts was the signal for a wild orgy of profiteering. Prices jumped so fast and so high that it became a national scandal. The government was forced to act—with ceiling on meat and butter prices, a gesture toward price control.

What a Ceiling

But what a ceiling! In reality, the new inflated prices were accepted, frozen, and called a ceiling. The farmer gets too small a proportion of the higher prices. Meanwhile foodstuffs sold by him at a lower price are resold at a high price by middlemen who are cashing in on millions from the

pockets of the Canadian farmer and consumer.

Last but not least, while Britain's cost of living remains lower than in 1945, the Canadian cost of living soars higher and higher. The Liberal Government—great wartime champion of anti-inflationary measures—is proving how right they were then, and how wrong now. Back to the promised land of free enterprise.

NEW ZEALAND M.P.'S WILL GET PENSION

OTTAWA (CPA)—New Zealand

members of parliament may now draw a superannuation allowance of from \$250 to \$400 a year, if they have been in parliament at least five years and are over the age of 50. The allowance varies with the length of service.

The legislation was passed in the House of Representatives 4500 Wellington in November. Men a year as taxable income, plus \$250 a year for expenses, and they will be required to contribute \$50 a year to the superannuation fund. The balance is made up from the public treasury.

This measure replaces the practice during the past few years of "compassionate allowances" specially voted from public funds to assist former members of parliament who were in need.

fares, and we might have an entirely different point of view in the department of agriculture."

Mr. Wright argued that the Prices Support Act could never be really effective until Canada had a dominion natural products marketing and commodity marketing boards. He said that such a policy had long been advocated by his party and had been sought by all the major farm organizations.

"Hullo, you back again?" said the warden as he locked the burglar in a cell.

"Yes," replied the burglar bitterly, "and all because I need glasses."

"How's that?" asked the warden.

"I was twiddlin' the knobs of a safe and a dance band started playin'."

Doctor: "The best thing for you to do is to give up drinking and smoking, get up early every morning and go to bed early every night."

Patient: "Somehow, doctor, I don't deserve the best. What's second best?"

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